

SEA VICTORY AIDS NEUTRAL AMERICAS

German Defeat Off Falklands Removes Some Causes of Friction.

LESS ABUSE EXPECTED OF LIMITED HOSPITALITY

Japanese Fleet in Pacific Likely to Cause Teutons to Abandon Western Waters.

BY CHARLES M. PEPPER.

Pan-American neutrality gets unexpected reinforcement from the British naval victory off the Falklands. One of the indirect results of the success of the British squadron will be to remove some of the causes of friction with the belligerents, of which the South American countries were the victims. The principles of neutrality for which the pan-American diplomats at the recent meeting in Washington contended will not be altered.

Little question can now remain that with the German warships destroyed or in flight, and with a Japanese fleet somewhere in the Pacific en route to South American waters, the allies will be able to control the situation. Commerce may not be restored as rapidly as the South American diplomats have wished, but the abuses of the limited hospitality conceded by international law and usage to warships in neutral ports will be less likely.

The action off the Falklands is not unexpected to those familiar with South American waters, and the strategic situation. While details are lacking, it is not unlikely that the German squadron under Count von Spee, in pursuance of the German policy of daring everything, challenged the British squadron with the deliberate purpose of destroying the one naval base that Great Britain has in the South Atlantic.

Location of Islands.

The Falklands lie between 490 and 500 miles off the mainland. They are, therefore, out of the regular route of vessels passing through the straits of Magellan, and are rarely utilized by the ships rounding Cape Horn, though the crews of vessels shipwrecked off the stormy coast of Terra Del Fuego usually make their way to the Falklands as the nearest refuge. It is a rare thing not to find some shipwrecked sailors there, waiting for vessels of their government to take them away.

The entrance to the Falklands is narrow and crooked, fully as crooked as the entrance to the Magellan straits. Once through the passage, however, there is a spacious bay, where an entire navy could anchor.

Darwin, in "The Voyage of the Beagle," three-quarters of a century ago, gave a full description of the islands. One of the small ports is named after him. The chief town is Port Stanley. It lies at the base of treeless wilds which stretch back over dreary moors and bogs. The country, to the eye, is extremely barren, but it provides excellent sheep pasture, and there are

NEAR WHERE THREE GERMAN CRUISERS WERE SUNK.



HARBOR OF PORT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

a number of fine sheep ranches in the interior. Wool and mutton and the merchandise received in exchange for them furnish the commerce. The original settlers were Irish and Scotch, although later people from the north of England supplemented and partly supplanted the original stock of emigrants. The total population of the group is about 2,500.

Of Strategic Value.

The bay at Port Stanley is crescent shaped. At the time of my own visit the British admiralty was putting up an extensive series of coal sheds and building a circular breakwater for the coaling station.

The hopes of the islanders were raised high by this evidence of a progressive policy. Previously, while some of the British warships in the south Atlantic would come into the bay during the summer months they would steam off again at the approach of winter, and the Falklands hardly could be considered much of a naval station. One of the local officials who was filled with cheer because of the enlarged coaling facilities told me that some day the Falklands were going to be of great strategic value to England. He was almost alone in that opinion, but recent events justify him.

Following the coaling station, a wireless station was also established on the Falklands. Not much is known about the operations of this wireless, but it is in easy communication with Montevideo and with Punta Arenas, on the Chilean mainland, in the straits. If the wireless which was erected on the rocky coast of Terra del Fuego is in commission, the Falkland station would also be in communication with that.

Those familiar with South American conditions have been wondering for a month past what was going on in the Falklands. It is not improbable that Admiral Craddock, in taking his ill-fated fleet around to the west coast, put in at Port Stanley to coal. Nor is it unlikely that the German admiral got information by means of intercepted wireless messages of the movement of Admiral Craddock's ships.

German Wireless.

The German company known as the "Telefunken," under contract with the different South American governments, put up wireless stations on both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts. With the knowledge gained in this work, and with many German operators scattered throughout those regions, it would be possible to maintain private wireless

outfits to intercept messages and to receive direct information from secret agents of the German navy. Where Admiral von Spee's squadron has been since it destroyed the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth off the Chilean coast November 1, is, for the present a matter of pure conjecture. The probability is that it has been somewhere in the south Atlantic, possibly lying in wait for the British vessels.

Whether the German warships actually sought to make their way through the crooked passages of the Falklands, doubtless also in time will be disclosed, although the difficulty of getting out after once entering the bay at Port Stanley would appeal to the caution of even a daring naval commander, such as Admiral von Spee showed himself to be.

The official statement of the British admiralty simply says that the German ships were sighted near the Falklands.

Karlsruhe in Peril.

If the Karlsruhe was with the other German warships and got away, her appearance somewhere off the Atlantic coast may be accounted for later. It is about 1,500 miles from Port Stanley to Montevideo.

Bahia Blanca, the Argentine military and commercial port, is a little over 1,000 miles. Should the Karlsruhe put in there for coal or to make repairs, she could hardly start out again without expecting to meet British warships. Should she have made for Punta Arenas, which is less than 500 miles from Port Stanley, there would be the same situation.

The undisputed control of the Falklands, with the supply of coal, which has been laid up there, makes it comparatively easy now for the British squadron, reinforced as it may be by Japanese warships on the Pacific, to round up any armed German merchantmen that may be in those waters.

In view of the strategic value which the Falklands have proved to be to England, it is worth recalling that they are the only habitable English territory in the south of the Atlantic, and there is one powerful South American government which does not admit that the Falklands are British. This is the Argentine Republic.

Three-quarters of a century ago the Falklands were a whaling station for whalers in the United States. About the only people there were Americans, and their only interest was in whaling, although at times it was suggested that the flag might be run up and possession maintained as American territory. The value of the Falklands, as

a whaling station, declined, and the Americans moved away.

Argentina Claims Islands.

The Argentine Confederation, as it was then known, was torn with internal dissensions and was not in a position to establish its authority over a group of islands several hundred miles off the mainland, and which, moreover, were not supposed to have any value. Argentina, however, when the British moved in, claimed sovereignty, but, not being in a position to enforce her claim, possession remained with England.

That has been the situation for more than half a century back, but officially Argentina has not abandoned her position, and does not even recognize the name Falklands. In most of the South American countries the group is known as the Malvinas Islands.

There is a story that when an official in southern Argentina received a report of a distressed ship in the Falklands he said it must be a mistake because there was no such place as the Falklands.

The possession of these islands has

been of some importance to the Church of England. The Anglican Church has communicants among the English in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago and other South American cities, but the Episcopal see is in the Falklands. The Bishop of the Falklands actually resides in Buenos Aires.

PUNISHES WEAPON EXPOSURE.

Bill Introduced in House to Control Pistol Toting.

A bill to prevent the carrying of revolvers and guns openly in the District of Columbia was introduced in the House today by Representative Smith of Maryland.

The bill specifies that any one who exposes a gun, or who allows one to get into the possession of a minor shall be fined \$1,000 or committed to a five-year imprisonment or both.

TWO KILLED IN L TRAIN CRASH

Cars, 75 Feet Up, Take Fire—Blaze Fought From House-Tops.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Two men were killed and more than a hundred persons were injured here last night in a rear-end collision between two crowded elevated railroad trains on upper 8th avenue. Fire broke out in both trains after the crash, and most of those hurt received their injuries in the ensuing scramble for safety by the passengers.

Firemen fought the blaze in the trains, which were seventy-five feet above the street, from the roofs of houses.

The dead are Joseph Collins, a guard, and Gottlieb Minch, a clerk. A defective controller of the local train, which failed to operate the brakes, is said to have caused the collision.

Says Film Trust Formed for Defense.

PHILADELPHIA, December 10.—Self-preservation was the principle upon which the alleged motion picture trust entered into uniform agreements in 1908, according to the defense offered in the United States district court yesterday by Charles S. Kingsley, attorney for the Motion Picture Patents Company, to the suit of the government for a dissolution. The object or thought of a monopoly or restraint of trade in moving pictures was "prominently absent," he said.

CANNON RETURNS HERE FOR A VISIT

Former Speaker Gives His Views on Economy Policy of Administration.

Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois came to town today on a visit, to remain several days. The former Speaker of the House is in fine health and apparently is looking forward with keen anticipation to re-entering political life when the new Congress assembles next winter.

"I observe that the administration is laying great stress upon economy," said Mr. Cannon, in an interview with a Star reporter. "Secretary McAdoo has cut the estimates to the bone and Chairman Fitzgerald intends to scrape the bone, but the bone probably will be a \$1,000,000,000 bone just the same."

"The democratic economy is like that of the new clerk in the country store who carefully watched the spigot, but who carelessly knocked out the plug from the bung hole."

"From the President down they are all watching the spigot through which is drawn off the money for the ordinary functions of government, and they are shocked if a poor clerk wants an increase in salary or a half holiday, but when it comes to opening the bung hole for the building of a government-owned railroad in Alaska or the purchase of old ships that are mostly junk, to create a government merchant marine, they are like flies around a sugar barrel."

Country Wants to Be Shown.

"I have been watching democratic economy for a good many years and their economies are like those of my old friend, Judge Holman of Indiana, who was called the watchdog of the Treasury, but who said that a good watchdog could always recognize the voice of his master. The democrats

in their economy recognized the voice of the master who is exploiting government ownership. But seriously, I think the present administration has passed the honeymoon stage, and for the next two years it will have the whole country taking a Missouri attitude, and wanting to be shown."

"The President is mighty good at composition writing and his messages are fine examples of literature. But the people want results. There is an old saying that 'fine words butter no parsnips.' If they did Mr. Bryan would have had all the people smacking their lips over parsnips and refusing to eat beef years ago. He has been preaching from the text 'be good and you'll be happy' for nearly twenty years, but when he took charge of our foreign relations he made the American eagle look like a crow on the other side of the Rio Grande."

As to the Progressives.

"What about the progressives?" "My boy, when the prodigal returned his father would not permit any one to ask where he had been. Don't you think we ought to follow the old precedent? We don't want to ask about the taste or the staying powers of hushers as a steady diet. The progressives have come back home, and while they may be too expensive just now to hushers, I guess most of them are satisfied with the old family table. You think they have had a hard time?"

"No worse than the rest of us. You see, the overseer of the farm for the last two years has been producing hushers, not full-grown corn. The progressives realize that they helped the democrats to select the overseer and they are tired of him."

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Gompers Praises Strikes.

RICHMOND, Va., December 10.—Strikes were upheld as the most civilized method of expressing industrial discontent by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address here last night at the opening session of the annual convention of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education.

Violence in strikes, however, was discountenanced.

Ernest Hoen, Jr., for many years a member of the Baltimore bar, but for seven years past confined to his home in Roland Park, an invalid, died yesterday. He was born in Baltimore February 9, 1867.



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| Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.00 | Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.00 | Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.00 | Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.00 |
| Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.25 | Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.25 | Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.25 | Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.25 |

| Girls' Gun Metal Calfskin High-cut Button | Girls' Patent Leather Kid-top High-cut Button | Boys' Patent Leather and Gun Metal Calfskin Blucher | Boys' Patent Leather and Gun Metal Calfskin Button |
|---|---|---|--|
| Sizes 5 to 8.....\$2.00 | Sizes 5 to 8.....\$2.00 | Sizes 1 to 5½.....\$2.50 and \$3 | Sizes 1 to 5½.....\$2.50 and \$3 |
| Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.25 | Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.25 | A \$2.50 Style | A \$2.50 Style |
| Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.50 | Sizes 12 to 2.....\$2.50 | | |

| Girls' Gun Metal Calfskin High-cut Button | Girls' Patent Leather Kid-top High-cut Button | Boys' Patent Leather and Gun Metal Calfskin Blucher | Boys' Patent Leather and Gun Metal Calfskin Button |
|---|---|---|--|
| Sizes 5 to 8.....\$2.00 | Sizes 5 to 8.....\$2.00 | Sizes 1 to 5½.....\$2.50 and \$3 | Sizes 1 to 5½.....\$2.50 and \$3 |
| Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.25 | Sizes 8½ to 11½.....\$2.25 | A \$2.50 Style | A \$2.50 Style |
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